

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

NOTICE.
The Interests and Responsibility of Mr. JAMES WHITFIELD in our Firm ended on the 30th April, 1875.

Mr. WILLIAM PATTERSON was admitted a Partner on the 1st May last, and we have authorized Mr. JOHN BELL IRVING and Mr. JAMES JOHNSTONE KENDRICK to sign our Firm.

JARDIN & CUTHESON & CO.
1291 Honolulu, 20th August, 1875.

NOTICE.

The Interests and Responsibility of Mr. THOMAS PROKANIS, Doctor, in our Firm, ceased on the 10th November, 1873.

E. VINCENT & CO.
Swatow, China, 10th October, 1874.

M. R. COLIN CAMPBELL WILLIAMS is this day admitted a Partner in our Firm.
E. VINCENT & CO.
Swatow, China, 10th October, 1874.

The Underlined has been appointed
AGENT at this Port for Messrs. HENRY S. KING & CO., of London.

OFFICE—No. 3, Stanley Street.

W. H. NOTLEY.
1765 Hongkong, 24th October, 1874.

NOTICE.

I HAVE this day established myself at this Part as MERCHANT and GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT under the Style and Firm of

JOAQUIM MACALMEO & CO.

668A Amoy, 12th April, 1875.

The Daily Press

HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 1875.

In no other country in the world, perhaps, is wrong, oppression, and misgovernment born with such patience as in China. The administration of justice is a farce, through the corruption of the magistrates; into every phase of official life extortion and tyranny enter, with the result that the innocent usually suffer while the guilty manage to escape through the medium of a bribe. There are, however, some notable exceptions to the rule, men who deeply deplore the injustice which, in the sacred name of justice, is so extensively perpetrated on their fellow-countrymen everyday. To this class belongs the Censor, TENG K'UEN-ZI, who in a postscript memorial, published in the *Peking Gazette* of August 18th, draws attention to the abuses prevailing in connection with the hearing of appeal cases referred back from Peking. These are of a description such as would be tolerated nowhere but in the Middle Kingdom, and it is only marvellous that the Censor dare to lodge such a complaint, and the Government to publish it, without, possibly, the faintest intention of attempting to find a remedy. He says that there are not wanting good and capable men in the public service, corrupt and unscrupulous men abound in it also. This is a frank confession, and its truth is undisputed. And yet no effort is made to purge the official ranks of these harpies, who admittedly fatten on the miseries of the wretched people, over whom they are entrusted with great, and, in some cases, unlimited power.—"Functionaries of this class," says the Censor, "make use of judicial positions for their own ends, aided and abetted by their superiors, making the wrong appear the better cause, and turning and twisting in such wise as to involve the innocent in misfortune." The superior authorities will not, it seems, deal personally with matters of minor importance, or else, on the ground of some flaw in the proceedings, reject the indictment, or perhaps send back to be tried over again by the same court as before. Hence arise the appeals to Peking, of which the number is so great, it is stated, that time does not serve for so much as their perusal. On an appeal being lodged, the invariable course is to refer the matter back to the provincial authorities for re-hearing, and the complainant is forwarded, under escort, to be forthcoming when required to give his evidence. No doubt the intention of the Government in this procedure is just, but the issue is most disastrous to the unhappy appellant. "How little," exclaims Teng, "is it dreamt that, from the moment an appeal is remitted to Peking, all prospect of redress is gone for ever, and the injustice complained against actually becomes intensified!" This admission comes from a Chinese official, it must be remembered, and it may safely be assumed that there is no exaggeration in it. He goes on to explain this statement by saying that some of the appellants die in the places where they are held in durance, others die in the course of the journey—often a very tedious one—they have to take, and although the official reports are all to the effect that "death has taken place from disease," he boldly hints that sinister means are often employed to get rid of those who refuse to submit to have their cases dismissed or compromised. On an appellant being convened in custody to the provincial capital, his case is remitted, as in its earlier stages, to the Central Criminal Court, and though the parties may be forthwith summoned to appear, months and years may still elapse before the trial, during which the complainant languishes in confinement. Often the poor victim of "the law's delay" is carried to that bourne of the weary, the grave, before the day of hearing arrives, but supposing the trial to be held within the appointed time, the result is either that the appellant is sentenced as guilty of bringing a calumnious charge, or he is adjudged to have been misled by mere suspicion into laying an unfounded accusation. But the statement that follows is the most worthy of remark. It is made emphatically and without reserve. "There is not," says the Censor, "a case on record in which previous proceedings have been simply reversed." How utterly fridtless these appeals always prove cannot be more sufficiently exposed than has been done by the Censor. It is passing strange that the people should ever resort to so forcible a mode of obtaining justice. But doubtless they do so in ignorance of the inevitable result of their appeal. Note the unscrupulous officials. They derive encouragement in their perversions of justice by the knowledge that appeals are certain to be referred back to the original tribunals for re-hearing. After calling attention to the miseries entailed by the systematic denial of justice involved under the present system, the Censor envents that a decree may be issued to all the Provincial Governments ordering the most stringent injunctions to be laid upon the judicial officers charged with the hearing of appeals, and forbidding illegal conduct of any description, under penalty, in

the event of being dealt with according to the statute against the passing of sentences at variance with the law. It is sincerely to be hoped that this humane and well-meaning memorial may have a beneficial effect, but the chances of its doing so are remote. Even if the Government rouses itself to take the measures suggested by the memorialist, it is improbable that they would ever be carried out. The hands of Government are too feeble to enforce any wise and corrective measure it may devise. No material amelioration of the condition of the people can seemingly be effected until a more vigorous Administration is formed. It is, however, a hopeful sign for the future to find a few right-thinking and worthy officials protesting against the abuses which abound in the Empire, and earnestly pleading for their suppression.

The French mail steamer *Dijonais*, with date from London to the 13th August, arrived here last night.

On Saturday morning the China Navigation Company's steamer *Isang* went alongside the S. S. N. C. Co.'s steamer *Diamond*, at the Harbour-Master's Office, Frys' West, the weather was 79°, the minimum 65°; at the Harbour-Master's Office, Frys' West, the maximum was 85°, the minimum 75°. The greatest fall was on the 17th instant, when 0.88 fell.

We are told by the Master of the brig *Enterprise*, that Mr. Tyak, the Mining Engineer whose arrival at Keeling we reported some time ago, was about leaving for England, with power to engage a staff of Europeans to work the mines under steam appliances.—*N. C. Daily News.*

An order made in Council by His Excellency the Administrator of the 1st instant, it is ordered that the plumb of every ship, due between Hongkong and Canton, Macao, and entering Hongkong by night, be required to pay one-tenth only of the duty of one cent per ton imposed upon them by the Order in Council of the 30th March last.

The following copy of a telegram received from the Government of Gheorghe Bibescu, in the *Gazette of Saturday* for the information of mariners:—"The Floating Light vessel stationed at the entrance of the Merah River, which was removed in May last, has been replaced, in the following position:—Latitude 21° 26' 46" min. North; Longitude 88° 45' 45" East, in eleven fathoms."

A man named Dine Coscione, whilst in the employ of Mrs. Brown, Jones & Co., under Sheriff, was arrested, and charged with a disgraceful crime.—The *floating Light* vessel, which was removed in May last, has been replaced, in the following position:—Latitude 21° 26' 46" min. North; Longitude 88° 45' 45" East, in eleven fathoms."

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We beg to call attention to the programme, published in our columns today, of Miss Jenny Clancy's concert, which takes place at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on Wednesday evening. Miss Jenny Clancy has earned great popularity at the various houses she has visited. The *Sydney Morning Herald* was of the opinion that the presentation to her of a handsome gold bracelet and necklace by her admirers in the city, says that in presenting the bracelet, Mr. Windrey, who was spokesman on the occasion, said he had much pleasure in asking Miss Woolley to hand it to a lady whose musical talents had commanded the admiration of the public, whilst the principal of the school, Mr. Alexander, was highly pleased.

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WRECK OF THE P. & O. STEAMER "SUNDA".

We very much regret to announce the wreck of the P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, but are pleased to state that no lives have been lost, and that there is every chance of yet saving the vessel. The *Sunda* is one of the P. & O. steamers plying regularly between Hongkong and Japan. After the arrival of the *Sunda* at English port she sailed from Hongkong for Yokohama on Sunday the 12th last. Her cargo and crew had been on board at Nagasaki since Saturday the 11th inst., when she struck upon an unknown rock about one mile off the coast of Yura-tou. The details to the north of the *Sunda* are as follows:—

Her Lordship was indicted (1) for the robbery of a gold watch from Mr. B. Schaeffer (of Reesa, Japan) on the 18th inst., and (2) with an attempt to commit murder.

William Jones, a private in the 80th Regiment, was indicted (1) for the robbery of a gold watch from Mr. B. Schaeffer (of Reesa, Japan) on the 18th inst., and (2) with an attempt to commit murder.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and was condemned to death.

The Attorney-General said the prisoner was a soldier in the 80th Regiment, and that he had been sentenced to death for robbing a gold watch from Mr. B. Schaeffer (of Reesa, Japan) on the 18th inst., and (2) with an attempt to commit murder.

